

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary



Photo: National Park Service

Painting depicting *San Agustin* wrecking at Drakes Bay with local Miwok observing the event.



Wreck of the Tennessee.

Photo: NOAA Central Library

Tennessee Valley, Cove and Point were named for the California Gold Rush side-wheel passenger steamer wrecked at the site in 1853.



Photo: San Francisco Maritime Research Center

Courageous men standing in front of the Ocean Beach Life-Saving station, their role first and foremost, to save the lives of shipwrecked survivors.

Surveying the Underwater Museum off the Golden Gate and Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary

Cultural Maritime Landscape

The area encompassed by Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary is rich in cultural and historical resources, and has a long and interesting maritime history. The seafloor preserves remnants of the sites where people lived and the vessels they used to conduct trade and combat. Ships, boats, lighthouses, wharves, lifesaving stations, whaling stations, prehistoric sites and a myriad of other heritage treasures lie covered by water, sand and time.

The history of California's central coast is predominantly a maritime one. From the days of the early Miwok inhabitants, throughout the exploration and settlement of California and up to the present day, coastal waterways have been a main route of travel, subsistence and supply. Ocean-based commerce and industries (e.g. fisheries, shipping, military, recreation, tourism, extractive industries, exploration and research) are an important part of the maritime history, modern economy and social character of this region. These constantly changing human uses define the maritime heritage of the sanctuary and help us to interpret our evolving relationship with maritime archaeological resources. Ports such as San Francisco, and smaller coastal harbor towns, developed through fishing, shipping and economic exchange. Today many of these have become major urban areas, bringing millions of people in close proximity to the national marine sanctuaries of Central California. Many of these people are connected to the sanctuaries through commercial and recreational activities such as surfing, boating and diving.

Historical research suggests that nearly 200 vessel and aircraft losses occurred in the waters of what is now the sanctuary, including the oldest known shipwreck in the U.S. west coast, the Manila Galleon *San Agustin* lost in November 1595. The sanctuary has collaborated with state and federal agencies and the private sector to gather resource documentation and create opportunities to locate and record submerged archaeological resources. Some of these archaeological resources have been located and inventoried by the National Park Service (NPS). Existing shipwreck databases, a review of primary and secondary resource documentation, and two reports by the NPS published in 1984 and 1989 provided the framework for the sanctuary to create a shipwreck inventory and site assessment.

Searching For History

Beginning in 2013, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries started a systematic, phased project to better understand the maritime heritage of the sanctuary and to share what it learns with partner agencies and the public.

Project work to date includes the successful rediscovery of the steamer *City of Chester*, and sonar mapping of submerged areas of the sanctuary. A 2014 project is the first of two years of planned expeditions to visit and document wreck sites discovered by sonar mapping, in some cases to hopefully identify unknown targets or targets that are currently unnamed.

The results will be shared in a variety of ways, including virtual access to the wrecks wherever possible, to include *City of Chester*.



CITY OF NEW YORK 1893



CITY OF RIO JANEIRO 1901



TENNESSEE 1853



CITY OF CHESTER 1888



FRANK H. BUCK 1937



LYMAN STEWART 1922



NOONDAY 1863



JACOB LUCKENBACH 1953



COLORADO 1868 (RE FLOATED)

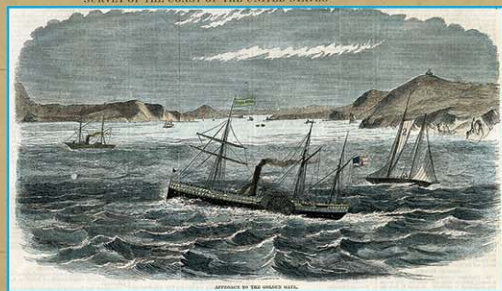
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Wrecks to March 1893.
Compiled by A. T. RODGERS Assistant U. S. Coast Survey

PACIFIC COAST
FROM
POINT PINOS TO BODEGA HEAD
CALIFORNIA

From a Trigonometrical Survey
under the direction of ABBACKE Superintendent of the
SURVEY OF THE COAST OF THE UNITED STATES



APPROACH TO THE GOLDEN GATE
1857

GULF OF THE FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA



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